

**CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable  
Issues Subcommittee Meeting  
Meeting Notes for April 20, 2000**

**Roundtable members (or their alternates) and liaisons present:**

Walt Hoyer (MWD)

Tom Zuckerman (CDWA)

Dan Keppen (NCWA)

Dave Briggs for Greg Gartrell (CCWD) via phone

David Yargas and Dan Suyeyasu (ED) via phone

Nan Yoder (BOR)

Carolyn Yale (EPA)

**Environmental Water Program**

Dick Daniel described the status of work for the Environmental Water Acquisition program that is being developed by CALFED and CVPIA. They are developing a Steering Committee to identify issues to be addressed in a water acquisition programmatic EIR/EIS. They would like two representatives from the Ecosystem Roundtable who are willing to work and not play solely an advocacy role. Any policy issues that are identified by the Steering Committee will be sent through the entire Roundtable. They are also requesting two representatives from the CVPIA Restoration Roundtable. A fifth person is sought to represent the third-parties in a potential water acquisition. The ideal time frame for conducting purchases would be spring of 2001. The Steering Committee will also be assisting with the decision-making for acquisitions. The time commitment needed for serving on the Steering Committee is 8 hours per month until October 2000. Dick Daniel is working on job descriptions for these positions and would like to have the steering committee in place by June 1.

The Subcommittee discussed the types of representatives that should be included on the Steering Committee. They identified five types of representatives: one with environmental knowledge, one with agricultural water selling experience, one with agricultural water buying experience, one with urban water buying experience and one with an understanding of third-party impacts. The issues of potential third-party impacts as well as environmental justice issues were highlighted as very important. Dick Daniel said he would look into identifying potential representatives for these areas. The Subcommittee also discussed the possibility of meeting with the CVPIA Restoration Roundtable to come up with a consensus recommendation for four representatives.

**Discussion of Revised Policy for Use of Restoration Reserve Fund**

The Subcommittee discussed the purpose, use, and administration of the Reserve Fund. As drafted currently, the Restoration Reserve purpose is to primarily fund project amendments and secondarily to fund emergency or time-sensitive projects. To date, it has not been used for either purpose since other unallocated funds have been available. The process for approving Restoration Reserve funds for new expenditures has not yet been developed and was further discussed by the Subcommittee.

After considerable discussion about eliminating the use of the Reserve Fund for new projects, there was consensus that the Fund should be kept available to fund new projects, but its use should be discouraged. The language in the State-Federal Cost-sharing agreement described the type of projects eligible projects well as "emergency and single-time expenditures for specific activities consistent with purposes" defined in the State-Federal cost-sharing agreement. In addition, the Subcommittee recommended requiring applicants to identify their attempts to find funding from other sources.

New projects should be subjected to a sub-set of the project review procedures identified in the Proposal Solicitation Package. Proposals will be put through the same outside scientific and technical review process followed by the evaluation of some group (Agency/Stakeholder Ecosystem Team or some other panel), and then to the Ecosystem Roundtable and Policy Group.

On-going projects seeking a project amendment or modification should be subjected to the existing approval process.